

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06328 191705Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07

CIAE-00 /050 W

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P R 191636Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2796
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, SA, UK, US
SUBJECT: HEALTH OF KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA

REFERENCE: LONDON 6030

1. KEALY IN FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT CALLED US EVENING APRIL 18 TO REPORT THAT KING KHALID APPEARS TO BE COMING ALONG WELL, AND THAT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HE WILL RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA IN TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS. HE DOES HAVE A LIMP, BUT IT IS BECAUSE OF THE KNEE IN HIS OTHER LEG, NOT THE ONE WHICH WAS OPERATED ON. THE FCO HAS HEARD NO FURTHER MENTION OF A STOP IN GENEVA, AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THE KING IS PREPARING TO FACE THE STRAIN OF THE CELEBRATION OF HIS RETURN IN SAUDI ARABIA.

2. MEANWHILE, THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE HAS TOLD THE FCO THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE VERY BUSY BECAUSE FAHD IS GOING TO THE UNITED STATES, AND MIGHT BE COMING THROUGH LONDON ON THE TRIP. KEALY NOTED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN HAS PROPOSED TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA MAY 16 AND 17, RIGHT AFTER THE CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TEHRAN, BUT HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM SAG. HE ASKED EMBOFF TO TRY TO FIND OUT FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHAT DAYS FAHD IS VISITING WASHINGTON IN MAY, SINCE THE TIMING OF HIS

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VISIT COULD AFFECT OWEN'S TRAVEL TIMING AND COULD RESULT IN A FAHD PROPOSAL TO VISIT LONDON AS WELL ON SHORT NOTICE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT INFORMING US OF THE DATE OF THE FAHD VISIT AND AUTHORIZING US TO INFORM THE FCO OF IT CONFIDENTIALLY.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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